

First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo
Race Matters Bibliography

This is a bibliography of the books that the Session of FPCSA has been studying for the past few years. Nearly all books on this list are available in the Marin County Library System, and for your convenience, call numbers are noted after the annotation.

Alexander, Michelle *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (2010)

A compelling argument that shows the many ways racial hierarchy still dominates American society, *The New Jim Crow* is a hard but necessary read. A deep dive into the racial discrimination within our justice system. 364.973

Allen, Theodore W. *The Invention of the White Race*

A groundbreaking examination of the construct of race and its origin in America, Theodore W. Allen's *The Invention of the White Race* is essential reading for anyone interested in dismantling racism from its foundation up.

Anderson, Carol, Ph.D., *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide* (2016)

An unflinching look at America's long history of structural and institutionalized racism, *White Rage* is a timely and necessary examination of white anger and aggression toward black America. 305.8

Baldwin, James *The Fire Next Time* (1963)

One of James Baldwin's most important book of essays, *The Fire Next Time* explores themes of race, religion and identity. 301.45 - 1995 ed. 305.896

Bayoumi, Moustafa , *How Does It Feel to Be a Problem?: Being Young and Arab in America* (2008)

If you've ever wanted to walk in someone else's shoes, *How Does It Feel to Be a Problem* lets you take steps as Arab- and Muslim-Americans, exposing the discrimination, prejudice, and injustice they face in their everyday lives. 305.892

Beatty, Paul *The Sellout* (2015)

Beatty infuses comic humor and biting political commentary into this racial satire about a modern-day slave owner. Fiction

Blackmon, Douglas A. *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II* (2008)

In *Slavery by Another Name*, Douglas A. Blackmon shines a spotlight on one of the darkest chapters in American history: the "Age of Neoslavery." Starting after the Emancipation Proclamation and lasting all the way through World War II, this often ignored period saw thousands of black Americans move from slavery in the south to involuntary servitude across the country.

Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo *Racism Without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Inequality in America* (2018)

A classic text on the constructs of race and racism, Eduardo Bonilla-Silva's updated edition of *Racism Without Racists* is an essential read for anyone looking to understand the dangers of color-blind racial ideology. College of Marin E184.A1 B597

Butler, Paul, *Choke Hold: Policing Black Men* (2017)

In the tradition of *The New Jim Crow*, Paul Butler's explanation of a deeply racially discriminatory justice system with transform the way you think about policing, race relations, and criminal justice. In *Choke Hold*, the former federal prosecutor turned legal commentator exposes the unjust laws and practices within the justice system that continually treats black men like criminals, thugs, and the enemy of the people. 363.2308

Coates, Ta-Nehisi *Between the World and Me* (2015)

In a letter to his son, acclaimed author Ta-Nehisi Coates tackles some of the most difficult questions about survival, identity, history, and freedom facing black men and women. 305.8

Diamond, Jared, *Guns, Germs and Steel: the Fates of Human Societies* (1999)

Diamond looks at the reasons different cultures developed more or less technology or material wealth. Diamond undermines racist notions about a connection between technology or material wealth and any superiority of people groups. 303.4

DiAngelo, Robin, *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard to Talk to White People About Racism* (2018). Foreword by Eric Michael Dyson

In this groundbreaking and timely book, antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility. Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. 305.8

Dyson, Michael Eric, *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America* (2017)

A beautiful mix of personal anecdote and cultural criticism, Michael Eric Dyson's *Tears We Cannot Stop* is a powerful appeal to Americans, especially white Americans, not only to own the racial issues facing the country today, but to address them with force and urgency. 305.8

Eberhardt, Jennifer L. *Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do*, (2019)

You don't have to be racist to be biased. Unconscious bias can be at work without our realizing it, and even when we genuinely wish to treat all people equally, ingrained stereotypes can infect our visual perception, attention, memory, and behavior. 303.3

Ellison, Ralph *Invisible Man* (1952)

In this seminal 1952 novel, an unnamed narrator recounts his epic life-story, from his coming-of-age in a rural Southern town, to his migration to the violent streets of Harlem. Fiction

Hobbs, Jeff *The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace (2014)*

This moving biography recounts the life of Robert Peace, a young man who escaped the streets of Newark, New Jersey, to attend Yale University — only to lose his life after graduating.

Bio Peace

Hochschild, Adam, *Bury the Chains (2005)*

Hochschild explores the abolitionist movement in Great Britain, concluding with the abolition of slavery in the UK in 1833. It's a fascinating story about a grassroots movement started by a handful of people. The descriptions of slavery are appalling and that is the aspect that was most transformational for me. 326.8

hooks, bell *Ain't I A Woman: Black Women (1981)*

For the reader who wants to learn more about black feminism, *Ain't I A Woman* is considered one of the most important and comprehensive works on how sexism and misogyny specifically affects women of color. 305.42

Irving, Debby *Waking Up White; and Finding Myself in the Story of Race. (2014)*

Irving, now a racial justice educator and writer, describes her own jolting and continuing journey from white oblivion to white awareness. 305.8

Jefferson, Margo *Negroland: A Memoir (2015)*

Margo Jefferson shares a bold and thought-provoking memoir on her upbringing as the daughter of black socialites in 1960s Chicago. 305.896

Johnson, T. Geronimo *Welcome to Braggsville (2015)*

This darkly comic debut novel is about four University of California, Berkeley students from different backgrounds who decide to protest a Civil War reenactment. Fiction

Kendi, Ibram X. *How To Be an Antiracist (2019)*

"The only way to undo racism is to consistently identify and describe it -- and then dismantle it." Ibram X. Kendi's concept of antiracism reenergizes and reshapes the conversation about racial justice in America -- but even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. 305.8009

Kendi, Ibram X. *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America (2016)*

The winner of the National Book Award in Nonfiction, *Stamped from the Beginning* should be required reading for anyone who still believes we are living in a post-racial America. In this eye-opening book, author Ibram X. Kendi explains not only the many ways in which racism is alive and well in the United States, but also exactly why it's still a deeply entrenched piece of our nation's identity. 305.8

Loewen, James L. *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong. (2007)*

Based on careful research at the Smithsonian Institution, here is a bold, direct challenge to the errors, misrepresentations, and omissions of the leading American history textbooks. 973

Lowery, Wesley *They Can't Kill Us All: Ferguson, Baltimore, and a New Era in America's Racial Justice Movement* (2016)

An essential book about the intersection of police violence and race, Wesley Lowery's heavily researched and deeply reported book sheds a clarifying light onto one of the most polarizing topics in America today: the shooting of black Americans by white cops. 305.896

Morris, Monique W. *Black Stats: African Americans by the Numbers in the Twenty-first Century* (2014)

An easy-to-read, easy-to-understand guide on the real-life experiences of black people in the 21st century, *Black Stats* shows racial discrimination in the form of facts and figures. A critical look at the quality of African American life, progress toward equality, and the negative impacts of socially unjust policies and discriminatory practices. 305.896

Morrison, Toni *The Bluest Eye* (2005)

Toni Morrison's first novel perfectly captures the effects of racism and colorism, telling the story of an 11-year-old black girl with low self-esteem who prays desperately for her eyes to become blue. Fiction

Painter, Nell Irvin *The History of White People* (2010)

In *The History of White People*, celebrated historian Nell Irvin Painter goes beneath the skin and explores the many ways whiteness has been constructed as a sign of power, control, wealth, beauty, and dominance throughout history and across cultures. 305.8

Palmer, Brian and Seth Freed Wessler, "The Costs of the Confederacy," *Smithsonian*, December 2018, p. 54-63.

<https://www.pressreader.com/usa/smithsonianmagazine/20181201/281487867364467>

In the last decade alone, American taxpayers have spent at least \$40 million on Confederate monuments and group that distort U.S. history and perpetuate racist ideology.

Rankine, Claudia *Citizen: An American Lyric* (2014)

A gut-wrenching lyrical collection about race, identity, and being black in United States, Claudia Rankine's *Citizen: An American Lyric* is a must-read for every American citizen trying to understand racial injustice. Using essay, poetry, image, and art, Rankine exposes the racial aggression faced by black people every day. 814

Rothstein, Richard *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* (2017)

A fascinating book about the government's role in segregating the country, *The Color of Law* exposes the unjust and often untold history of housing policy, city planning, and racial zoning that became the foundation on which discriminatory practices in America were built on. 305.8

Skloot, Rebecca *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (2010)

This is the true story of Henrietta Lacks, a poor black woman whose cells from cervical cancer have been used by scientists for developing advances in everything from cloning, gene mapping, cancer treatment and polio vaccines. Bio Lacks

Stevenson, Bryan, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* (2014)

The founder of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama recounts his experiences as a lawyer working to assist those desperately in need, reflecting on his pursuit of the ideal of compassion in American justice. Bio Stevenson

Tatum, Beverly Daniel “*Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?*”(1997)

Through research and case studies psychologist Beverly Daniel Tatum confronts the subtle ways in which racism dictates the ways both white and non-white people navigate the world. 305.8

West, Cornel *Race Matters* (1993)

Still considered one of activist Cornel West’s most important books, *Race Matters* bluntly takes on everything from affirmative action, to black crime, to religion within the black community — and what solutions, if any, there are. 305.8

Whitehead, Colson, *The Underground Railroad*, (2016)

A magnificent tour de force chronicling a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South - Fiction

Whitehead, Colson, *The Nickel Boys*, (2019)

African-American author of the recent Pulitzer Prize as well as the National Book Award for "The Underground Railroad" writes another novel about America's shameful past based on true events at a boys' reform school in 1960's (Jim Crow era) Florida. - Fiction

Wise, Tim *White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son* (2005)

Part memoir, part cultural criticism, part political commentary, Tim Wise’s *White Like Me* is a deeply personal exploration of what it means to be white and benefit from the racial privileges that go along with it. 305.8

Wu, Frank H. *Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White* (2002)

When we think about race, so many of us look at the issue in terms of black and white. Frank Wu’s *Yellow* goes beyond those hard lines and explores racial identity and race relations through the perspective of the Asian American experience. 305.89

Reparations Articles:

[“How I Can Offer Reparations in Direct Proportion to My White Privilege: What it looks like to pay for the unearned advantages my whiteness has afforded me”](#) by Chris Moore-Backman in *Yes! Magazine*

[“The Case for Reparations: Two hundred fifty years of slavery. Ninety years of Jim Crow. Sixty years of separate but equal. Thirty-five years of racist housing policy. Until we reckon with our compounding moral debts, America will never be whole.”](#) By Ta-Nehisi Coates in *The Atlantic*

[“The Moral Mandate for Individual Reparations”](#) by Tori Williams Douglas

[“The Case for Reparations: Two hundred fifty years of slavery. Ninety years of Jim Crow. Sixty years of separate but equal. Thirty-five years of racist housing policy. Until we reckon with our compounding moral debts, America will never be whole.”](#) By Ta-Nehisi Coates in *The Atlantic*